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6.2 SAFETY POLICY

The JSC Reduced Gravity Program is operated in accordance with established NASA safety procedures. Due to the critical nature of this program, a multi-stage review and approval procedure has been developed to ensure flight safety. Approval from multiple authorities is required prior to flight.

6.2.1 Providing Center Requirements

The test developer must meet and comply with all safety requirements of the providing NASA center (if any) and provide a safety certification.

All test developers must prepare a hazard analysis and submit it as directed in Section 6.4.3 of this document.

6.2.2 Human Research Policy

All JSC Reduced Gravity Program investigations involving human test subjects, animals, or biological tests must submit a JSC Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol and obtain written approval prior to the Test Readiness Review (TRR) (see Section 6.2.4).

6.2.3 Test Personnel

Only the test personnel with a demonstrated necessity to participate in the investigation will be allowed to fly. All personnel are required to wear approved flight suits and boots during the flight. These can be provided on loan by the Reduced Gravity Office if necessary.

6.2.4 Test Readiness Review (TRR)

The TRR is the final safety review prior to flight. It includes a complete review of supporting analyses and documentation, an inspection of the test equipment, and a final integrated verification of flight readiness.

A TRR is required for all new test articles as well as test articles that have previously flown but have been significantly modified. A list of modifications to flown equipment and changes to test procedures must be provided at least four weeks prior to flight date.

The TRR will be attended by:

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- 1. Test Conductor or designated representative
- 2. Reduced Gravity Program Test Director
- 3. AOD Quality Assurance Section Representative
- 4. KC-135A Project Pilot (or designee)
- 5. IRB Representative (if IRB protocol involved)
- 6. FCOD Flight Safety Office Representative (or designee)
- 7. JSC Safety Office Representative (or designee)
- 8. Chief, Aircraft Operations Division (Chairman) or a designated representative

The TRR will approve, approve pending corrections indicated, or not approve the test for flight. A unanimous decision is required for flight approval. Tests which have not been approved may be scheduled for a subsequent review when deficient areas have been corrected. For tests which have been approved pending corrections indicated, another TRR is not required; however, a test director must verify that corrections have been made before the equipment will be loaded onto the aircraft. An example of the TRR Certification Form is included in Appendix A.